



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS ADVISORY

NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING AT FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA

The Subcommittee on Military Readiness of the Committee on National Security of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on Monday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the Officers' Club at Fort Monroe, Virginia. The hearing is open to the public.

The subcommittee is in the process of considering the readiness aspects of President Clinton's fiscal year 1999 defense budget request. This hearing will provide members of the subcommittee with a better understanding of the current combat and technical training programs of the military services and any shortfalls they may be currently experiencing, as well as the current and future training requirements necessary to ensure that each of the military services maintains a ready and capable force.

Media Information:

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Ray Harp at Fort Monroe, at 757-727-3061.
- On the day of the hearing, press should arrive at the Fort Monroe Officers' Club, **and have all equipment set up**, by no later than 8:30 a.m.
- Directions: Fort Monroe is located in Hampton, Virginia. From Richmond, take Interstate 64 East to exit 268. Follow signs to Fort Monroe. Military Police at the front gate will direct visitors to parking at the Officers' Club.

Witness List:

Panel 1:

Gen. William Hartzog, USA, Commanding General, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)
Vice Adm. Patricia A. Tracey, USN, Chief of Naval Education & Training
Lt. Gen. John E. Rhodes, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development
Command, Quantico, Virginia
Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, USAF, Commander, Air Education & Training Command

Panel 2:

Maj. Gen. Carl Ernst, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Georgia

Rear Adm. Toney M. Bucchi, USN, Chief of Naval Air Training

Brig. Gen. Keith T. Holcomb, USMC, Director of the Training & Education Division, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia

Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Pelak, Jr., USAF, Commander, Second Air Force

Background Information:

This is the second of three field hearings to be held by the Readiness Subcommittee this year. Last year, the subcommittee held one field hearing at Langley Air Force Base, and the information learned from the witnesses directly influenced many of the readiness provisions contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (*Public Law 105-85*).

The House National Security Committee has jurisdiction over the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the significant national security portions of the annual operating budget of the Department of Energy. DOD's annual budget in excess of \$260 billion affects millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on National Security are conducted primarily within the context of the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill.

The committee divides its responsibilities between five standing subcommittees (Military Procurement, Military Research and Development, Military Readiness, Military Installations and Facilities, and Military Personnel) and two special oversight panels (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and Merchant Marine).

The Military Readiness Subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Herbert H. Bateman (R-VA) and seats 22 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for annually authorizing funding for military operations and maintenance, the readiness and preparedness requirements of the defense establishment, and related legislative oversight.

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